PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
MUSEUM
& HERITAGE FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT

1990-91

Executive Director

THE SITES

Basin Head Fisheries Museum
Elmira Railway Museum
Eptek National Exhibition Centre
Green Park Shipbuilding Museum
Orwell Corner Historic Village

DEPARTMENTS

Architectural Consultant
Collections
Exhibits and Public Programs
Genealogy
Curator of History
Publications and Publicity

Government House Committee

Executive Director

Thirty years can seem a life-time from the vantage point of youth, and more like a film running at fast-forward to one who has spent that time absorbed by a profession that started, and continued, as a hobby as well as a livelihood.

Working in the museum and historic-sites field is perhaps more instructive than any other profession on the inevitability of the passage of time. Even when one's job transports one to other places and times, and rewards one with gems of knowledge gleaned from hours of detective work in the archives or on a dig, one is always aware of the personal clock ticking away in the background.

Fortunately for me, my clock continues to tick, but the right time has arrived to take my professional experience and turn it once more into a profitable hobby as a heritage consultant, which should allow me to pursue interests that have too long been sublimated to the need to "get ahead" and prosper.

If thirty years is, in retrospect, a short time, then three years is just a flash, and if there is any sadness to be associated with my decision to leave the P.E.I. Museum & Heritage Foundation in August, it is that I have had so short a time to enjoy the daily company of fellow workers. The past three years have been ones of great reward for me, 'though tempered sadly by the frustration of knowing that the institution could have done so much more if only our fiscal base were larger.

I wish to thank those who have supported the Museum and Foundation during the past three years, through volunteering their time, donating artifacts to the collection, or contributing much-needed financial support. My thanks also to the Board members for their friendship and support.

It's not "good-bye," but rather "so long, I'll see you around." I know our paths will cross again.

As always, I recommend the following divisional reports to you, for they are not only a record of the past year's achievements but a reflection of the staff's dedication to the principle of bringing the Island's history to the attention of the public through the use of individual skills and knowledge in a professional manner. When entertainment and information can be combined, history comes to life, but it takes hard work, good planning and perhaps a little theatre to really succeed.

These reports, I believe, reveal that this combination is present, and as long as it remains so, this organization will continue to fulfill its mandate.

Respectfully submitted,

David Webber

Basin Head Fisheries Museum
Elmira Railway Museum

This year, 1990-91, our grant from the provincial Government through the Prince Edward Island Museum & Heritage Foundation was $62,340, which is used to run both the Basin Head and Elmira sites. This year also saw the combining of the museum and salt-box factory operations into one set of accounting records, and a new operating agreement signed with the Museum & Heritage Foundation, which will be in effect until 1996.

Funding in the amount of $2000 was received again from the provincial Department of Fisheries for fish-cutting and -salting demonstrations during the tourist season. Revenues from the box factory, gift shop sales, admission fees and special events made up the balance of our operating budget. With sales of $33,000, the box factory continued to provide a financial boost for the museum operation.

The highlight of the 1990 summer season at Basin Head was the filming of some scenes for the television program, "Road to Avonlea." It was quite an honour for the staff and the site to be selected for inclusion in this national television show.

The third annual Elmira Blueberry Festival was held in late August, and was a great draw. Everyone who attended had a wonderful time, with entertainment provided by local talent. Many thanks to Paul Gallant for donating the blueberries. Thanks also go out to the provincial Department of Transportation and Public Works for their continued support and upkeep of all the buildings at Basin Head and Elmira.

SITE ATTENDANCE

Attendance at Basin Head dipped to 6112 during 1990, a drop of over 2000 visitors from the previous summer. With half of these being paid visitors, admissions dropped by $1000, and as a result of lower attendance, gift shop receipts dropped $2400. We are hoping for better numbers for the 1991 season.

Attendance at Elmira remained about constant (actually up slightly to 2250 from 2204 in 1989), despite the $1 admission fee imposed for the first time. Next summer, admission will cost $1.50. With the "Rails to Trails" venture proposed for Elmira, the future for the site looks bright.

STAFF

This past summer saw the return of guides Anne Lutz, Anne Garrett, Cindy Bruce and Joan Rose, who were all paid through the museum's operating grant. With continued support from the Department of Industry's Jobs for Youth Program, we were able to have the services of Alana MacGregor, Julie Higdon, Debbie Dixon, Jennifer Keenan and Jeff Keefe. Our box factory staff included David Decourcey, Beryl MacNeill and Bradley Taylor. Bruce MacAulay, our accountant, and myself rounded out the staff.

At this time, I would like to thank the staff for their continued hard work and support of the programs here at Basin Head and at Elmira.

Respectfully submitted,

Regan Paquet,
Director of Basin Head and Elmira

Eptek National Exhibition Centre

Writing an annual report causes an examination of the reasons for existence. It causes reflection on past accomplishments and perceived failures. It is also a time for a strained glimpse into the future and a chance to re-evaluate the sometimes-undervalued and often-invisible components that give form to that existence.

The accomplishments of the Eptek National Exhibition Centre, we are proud of; the failures were few and were usually attached to financial and staffing constraints. The Centre's very existence is owed to its national mandate as, indeed, its future is. As for those undervalued and invisible components, they are the enthusiasm, commitment, and vision of the staff and Friends.

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

Public programming, once again, played a star's role in art, history, science and natural science productions. The cast list of individual events is much too lengthy to mention individually, 81 in total, but it included the usual big names, such as the East Prince Music Festival, Creative Youth Fair, National Book Festival Week, Island Lecture Series, and the P.E.I. Sports Hall of Fame open house. The extras were: P.E.I. Literacy Awards Night, C.M.A. Museum Standards Seminar, the Friends' "Films for Lunch" series, art and art appreciation workshops, the Irish film series, music recitals, readings, genealogy services and lectures, receptions and multiple-subject meetings. Total attendance for the year was **20,887**.

SUMMARY

Exhibitions	**Source**	**Attendance**
Tropical Garden, Nfld.: The Island in Silk	Memorial University Gallery/Eptek Centre	873
Creative Youth Fair: Literary & Visual Art	Unit 2 Schools/ Eptek Centre	1,200
Reflections of Harmony & Balance: D.Savidant	Eptek Centre Production	1,605
Summerside Art Club Annual Show	Eptek Centre Production	513
DesBorough Students' Show	Eptek Centre Production	933
Loops, Yarns and Burlap: A Look at Hooking	Eptek Centre Production	6,694
The New Review '90	Friends of Eptek Centre	1,785
A Thousand Young Men	P.E.I. Museum Prod'n	1,147
P.C. Woodcarvers' Guild: Wildlife Exhibition	Eptek Centre Prod'n	2,158
Reefs: Fossils, Skeletons and Shimmering Life	Provincial Museum of Alberta	2,418
The Living Factories: Biotechnology	National Museum of Science & Technology	462
Total Exhibitions		**12**
Total Attendance		**20,887**

EDUCATION SERVICES

The education service attracted adults as well as children. Workshops in flower drying, art appreciation, science and interpretive tours of the various exhibitions were well received by adult groups.

The students from Units 1 and 2 were particularly keen on the science exhibitions, *Reefs: Fossils, Skeletons and Shimmering Life* and *The Living Factories: Biotechnology*. The Creative Youth Fair, National Book Festival Week, and the East Prince Music Festival & Awards rounded out the Centre's education activities for 1990-91, for a total of 1,867 students.

GENEALOGY SERVICE

The Summerside Kinsmen Club's annual donation of $200 purchased seven reels of microfilm for the Centre's library, and microfilm of the Summerside *Journal* covering the period Dec. 7, 1921 to Sept. 14, 1939. As well, several resource texts were added to the library by donors.

The genealogy service was put to good use during the summer months, and was staffed by two student genealogists.

THE FRIENDS OF THE EPTEK CENTRE

On Thursdays at noon, from October through March, The Friends hosted the "Films for Lunch" program. This year's four-part line-up featured *The Homecomers, A German Christmas, The Grand Museum Series, Points of Intersection.*

The Friends also continued their support through the The New Review '90 exhibition, the Christmas auction and party, assistance on the front desk during school tours, and hospitality services. A special thanks to Marion Judge, who wrote the Eptek column for the *Guardian* during July and August in the director's absence.

DIRECTOR'S INVOLVEMENT

The director participated in off-site activities as follows: acted as judge for the Creative Youth Fair, art category; participated in the National Book Festival Week's visiting-author program; conducted the History-to-Go program in the local manors; was a presentor at the P.E.I. Community

Museums Association's seminar, "The Museum and the Media"; and undertook a study tour of Quebec and New Brunswick museums during July, which was a highlight of the year and a real eye-opener.

The director also continued her studies in the French language through the provincial Government and the University of Prince Edward Island.

CONCLUSION

All in all, it was a very successful year. We acknowledge past and continued support for the Centre's programs by naming the following, to whom we are indebted:

Department of Community & Cultural Affairs	- operating budget
Museum Assistance Program	- program budget
Department of Industry	- tour guides
The Friends of Eptek Centre	- program assistance
Kinsmen Club of Summerside	- microfilm library
Communications Canada	- computer grant
Summerside Chamber of Commerce	- job re-entry personnel

Lastly, I wish to acknowledge the support of a dedicated staff: Lynn Turtle, assistant; Marlene Cameron, receptionist; Vaughn Edwards, Cathy LaCasse and Paul Pineau, docents; Paul Smith, janitorial and gallery technician; the Friends of Eptek Centre. It is indeed a pleasure to work with you!

Respectfully submitted,

Nonie Fraser,
Director of Eptek National Exhibition Centre

Green Park Shipbuilding Museum

ATTENDANCE

Month	Visitors	School	Tour	Events	Total
June	6013	379	50		1030
July	2430		68	428	2926
August	2241		34	1500	3825
September	280		12		292
Total	**5552**	**379**	**164**	**1928**	**8073**

Percentage DECREASE in attendance for 1990 = 4%

Attendance for 1990, while down slightly from the previous season, was still very good. Given the shorter operating period and the general decline in Island tourism, the 4% overall decrease is not alarming, especially with general admissions up slightly from previous years. The overall decrease can be ascribed to a substantial drop in motorcoach tours (due to the threatened ferry strike at the beginning of the season) and less-than-perfect weather conditions for the major special event on the calendar, the Blueberry Social.

Financially, 1990 was very successful, thanks to an increase in the number of general admissions and improved monitoring of visitors on the site.

INCOME

Month	Attendance	Gift Shop	Events	Total
June	857.50	128.54		986.04
July	3620.75	511.22		4131.97
August	3069.25	522.96	614.08	4206.29
September	461.25	104.14		565.39
Total	**8008.75**	**1266.86**	**614.08**	**9889.69**

Percentage INCREASE in revenue for 1990 = 7%

PROGRAM

Special events for 1990 were well attended and successful. The traditional Canada Day celebrations ran smoothly once again, thanks in large part to the participation of community and area businesses, the newly formed Green Park Committee, and the site staff. The Irish *seisiun*, organized as part of "We're Akin to Ireland" celebrations, saw the Yeo House filled to capacity for an evening of lively entertainment that drew local residents and tourists. This event kicked off a particularly busy week at the park, which included a three-day music festival on park grounds and the annual Blueberry Social. While cool weather kept many away, approximately 1300 people visited the site for the social. Unfortunately, because of budget restraints and poor attendance in 1989, the site could be not kept open to take part in the 1990 Festival of the Arts activities. Perhaps this event can be put back into the calendar in the future.

In addition to the special events held at the park, the Interpretive Centre hosted weekly films and lectures on an Irish theme, organized in conjunction with the park's recreation director. The addition of a television monitor and video-cassette player to the audio-visual room greatly enhanced the daily interpretation of the site. Once again, Green Park was available for a variety of community gatherings, including family reunions, church events, weddings and the annual oyster festival.

The long-term goal of making the entire site accessible to English- and French-speaking visitors alike is close to being achieved: the remaining display materials were translated during the course of the summer, and a self-guided tour brochure in French should be available to visitors early in the 1991 season.

With the assistance of the new Green Park Committee, substantial work was carried out on the Yeo House grounds. Thanks to the vigour and goodwill of this group, which was responsible for a great deal that was positive in the 1990 season, Green Park as a whole is in the midst of a revitalization. With the committee's help, further developments should be seen in 1991.

COLLECTIONS/DONATIONS

There were two important additions made to Green Park's collection in 1990. The first acquisition was the telescope belonging to James Yeo, Jr. himself, which was willed to the site by the Estate of Michael Dalton. The second was a loom, hand-made on the Island in the mid-1800s. It is on loan from Sylvia Winn, a long-time senior guide at the site, and will be operational in 1991.

STAFFING

As always, the site was blessed with an excellent staff. Hired again by the P.E.I. Museum were Sylvia Winn, Kim Ballum and Penny Ellis, who ensured that everything ran smoothly on a daily basis. The Department of Industry's Jobs for Youth Program provided Lori Ellis, Tracy Ellis, Krista Birch and Lee-Anne Dawson. Corey Gillis was hired through the federal SEED program.

DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

Under the auspices of the Green Park Committee, application has been made for a federal "Section 25" grant that would enable the site to hire a qualified carpenter and three workers, as well as purchase materials for the 1991 season. If the application is successful, the site will see more activity in 1991 than it has for quite some time: a start will be made on bringing the long-neglected shipyard back into shape (thus completing the first stages of the Museum's Five Year Plan), pasture land will be fenced, paths and carriageways laid out, and the first stages of converting the small barn into a gift shop undertaken.

In addition, new promotional items for the existing gift shop are on order, which should significantly increase revenue for the site; new historical costumes are being produced to improve general site interpretation; and a ramp is being constructed to give wheelchair visitors access to the ground floor of the Yeo House.

In conclusion, I must once again offer my sincere thanks and appreciation to the members of the Green Park Committee for their assistance and enthusiasm. The formation of this committee has been a great blessing for Green Park, providing increased communication with area residents and very real opportunities for development.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Leon,
Director of Green Park

Orwell Corner Historic Village

ATTENDANCE

This year's attendance was down by 1173 visitors, a decrease of 9.7% over 1989. This number reflects a drop in our adult visitors and those attending special events. The decrease also reflects fewer tourists overall visiting Prince Edward Island in 1990, particularly the eastern regions. Some tourist operators in the region experienced a full 20% decrease.

Category	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Adult	3162	4793	4469	4981	3855
Youth	658	753	889	923	965
Member	88	14	20	15	48
Tour	334	348	618	410	674
School	1516	1668	1686	1746	1747
Events	3136	3622	3673	3844	3293
Other	306	348		86	250
Total	**9,200**	**11,621**	**11,355**	**12,005**	**10,832**

PROGRAM

In April, I represented Orwell Corner at a province-wide museum education conference held at the Confederation Centre of the Arts. The workshop, called "Symposium '90: Making Connections," was organized primarily for teachers representing most of the Island's schools, as well as museum workers.

Our special events program at Orwell this year included the usual variety of activities designed to attract visitors to the site: Canada Day celebrations, the Draft Horse Show, Strawberry Fair, Senior Citizens' Day, Collectors' Day, the Scottish Festival and Highland Games, and the Harvest Home Festival. The Wednesday evening *ceilidhs* were filled to capacity during July and August, with smaller crowds attending in the fall. This year, we showcased many Island performers of traditional Irish, Scottish and Maritime music, including Dorothy Curley, Helen Byrne, Edward Fitzgerald, Clary Croft, Blaine Hrabi and Denise Reisor, Jar o' Comfort, The Sunny Banks, The Scottish Settlers' Society, Michael O'Connor, Cef Pobjoy and Paul MacDonald, Sandi MacKinnon, Alan Stanley and Gail Mullen.

We also participated in the Gold Cup Parade with a float using "Let's Have a *Ceilidh*" as the theme. Tom LeClair and Kevin MacLean represented the Corner at the provincial exhibition's Draft Horse Show, winning first-place and grand-championship ribbons with Dottie, second place with Lady, and a third-place ribbon in the wagon-driving competition; Orwell Corner was also represented at the Draft Horse Field Day at Laurie Blue's farm. The horses and wagons were hired out for the Kevin Sullivan production, *Road to Avonlea*, and a Tourism Canada commercial. Revenue from these activities enabled us to hire some of our summer staff.

We hosted a number of family reunions and community socials, a P.E.I. Festival of the Arts tea, two Irish *seisiuns*, a children's Traditional Games Day, a Travel Writers' Association visit, and patients from the Dr. Eric Found Health

Centre and the Hillsborough and Queen Elizabeth hospitals.

I extend a special thank you to all those who helped make our events such a success. Many volunteered their time and energy, and without them we could not undertake all these projects. We also recognize the contribution of our Women's Institute, local business establishments, MLAs and churches.

COLLECTIONS/DONATIONS

Additions this year to the collection included three hay cutters, two road carts, a steel-wheeled truck wagon, a binder, turnip seeders and a number of smaller items.

BUILDINGS

The provincial Department of Transportation and Public Works undertook to re-shingle the roof of the blacksmith's shop, the house and the south side of the school. They also repaired the door sill of the store, the supports under the shingle mill and the admissions' building, and made minor repairs to the church roof, and to the downspouts and gutters on the house. Our own staff replaced and painted most of the fences around the church, cemetery and community hall, many of the fences around the farm, repaired floors, walls and doors in the barns, constructed a small utility room in the barn, painted the trim on all the outbuildings, and painted the admissions and "Dr. Waye" buildings. Although these improvements give the site a face-lift it has long deserved, much remains to be done in the coming years. Suggested improvements have been documented and forwarded to Public Works.

STAFFING

During the summer of 1990, I can honestly say that we had the best all-round staff ever. Those hired by the P.E.I. Museum included Grace MacLeod, Ruth Taylor, Kevin MacLean, Tom LeClair and Jamie Matheson. Through the Department of Industry's Jobs for Youth Program we received David Hume, Shawn Mossman, Shanda Campbell and Sharon Connelly. Under the federal SEED program we employed Crystal Schellekens and Pam Crane. Maureen Donnelly and Jeannie Campbell were employed by the Board of Orwell Corner through cost-shared employment programs of the provincial Government.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

In this area, we drafted a new management agreement for the site aimed at improving the administration of the site's budget and our communications with the central P.E.I. Museum & Heritage Foundation administration. We also applied for funding under the federal-provincial Co-operative Agreement on Culture with a proposal to enhance our facilities, program and marketing, which was forwarded to Executive Director David Webber. These projects are vital to the future of Orwell Corner if the needs of both a changing tourist market and our resident community are to be met.

This is my tenth season as director of Orwell Corner, and each year I look for different words and ways of saying thank you to a dedicated and hard-working staff, a supportive and enthusiastic Board of Directors, and the many volunteers and friends who help me do my job and keep Orwell an interesting place to work in and to visit. Alas, once again the best I can offer is a heartfelt thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendell Boyle,
Director of Orwell Corner

Architectural Consultant

This part-time contract position became a 20% civil service position on April 30, 1990.

Much of the consultant's time was spent answering enquiries from individuals who wanted advice on old-house renovation or simply wanted to know something about their house or building. While many of the enquiries could be dealt with satisfactorily in the course of a telephone conversation, others required some research, photocopying or even site visits. Some could be answered in one to two hours, while others took the better part of a day, especially if travel was involved. On the whole, there was an increase in enquiries over the previous year of almost 70%. In 1989, there were 39 that required a fair degree of attention; in 1990 there were 67.

Many of these enquiries were from property owners across the Island, but there were also some from Moncton, Dorchester and Buctouche in New Brunswick, which we felt deserved some attention on the part of the Museum. As well, there were consultations with engineering and architectural firms, and considerable time was spent advising a committee of the Kensington Chamber of Commerce regarding the potential use of an older structure in the town. Time was also spent advising the Friends of St. Andrew's on various aspects of their restoration project, which involved discussion, research and visits to the site. Similar consultations were held, at intervals, with personnel of the Charlottetown Beautification Project of the Charlottetown and Area Development Corporation.

There were also consultations held that perhaps fell outside the mandate of this service, but because the projects were important to the Museum's mandate, arrangements were made for meetings and workshops. Three such workshops were given to staff of the Garden of the Gulf Museum in Montague to help train them in recognizing forms and styles of local architecture and setting up documentation systems. There were also some less formal training sessions held in Charlottetown, and a half day was spent with a repre-

sentative of a group from the St. Peter's Bay area that is planning a local interpretation program.

One of the most rewarding, and time-consuming, ways of taking the Museum's mandate into the community has been the continuing program of house documentation begun last year at the instigation of Mr. Ken McInnis, an instructor in architectural technology at Holland College. As part of their training, Holland College students provide extensive documentation of important or unique houses through presentation drawings of elevations, plans, sketches, measurements and photographs of significant details. Two have been completed to date. In return for this service, the architectural consultant undertakes whatever amount of teaching is necessary to introduce the students to architectural history through illustrated lectures/workshops, visits to sites and being present at the drafting classes as necessary.

A third project, general planning for the curriculum of the Architectural Technology Division, is nearing completion. The architectural consultant was invited to take part in these annual day-long meetings with architects and engineers drawn from the region, which result in recommendations for revisions to the program. As the result, two new components have been added to the Holland College program, involving the development of skills in recognizing architectural or heritage styles and in documenting older structures. The architectural consultant will assist in writing the course outline for these areas in the coming year and in training the students as necessary.

The City of Charlottetown Heritage Review Board continues to require the services of the architectural consultant. These take the form of attending monthly meetings and visiting all locations the Board is asked to rule on.

As a volunteer effort, along with other individuals, the architectural consultant helped to photograph and assemble a slide show celebrating the buildings and cityscape of the Greater Charlottetown Area for an urban conference held November 16 and 17. This was a lengthy project that began in late summer, involving many days of field work, but which seems to have been well received at the conference.

As long as the P.E.I. Museum & Heritage Foundation continues to hold such a broad mandate, this architectural advisory service plays an important role in impressing its good intentions on a wide community. I feel that the informal manner of response provides a more satisfactory service than one day a week spent in the office could. However, it is up to the Board of the Museum to decide if this arrangement remains suitable for the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Reginald Porter,
Architectural Consultant

Collections

SPECIAL PROJECTS

From April to September, 1990, project manager Donald Moses and researchers Carole Betts, Randy Muttart, and Leona Turner continued work as the P.E.I. section of the Atlantic Canada Newspaper Survey. A grant of $45,490 from Employment and Immigration Canada's Job Strategy Program funded research and a computerized data base of goods and services advertised in 19th-century newspapers.

From September, 1990, to March, 1991, Claire Trainor was funded by an $11,000 grant from National Archives of Canada through the Canadian Council of Archives to complete the organization of archival backlog material.

Bill MacDonald and Evelyn Meader worked on conservation needs and research from April until September of 1990, funded by individually sponsored Job Strategy grants.

Barb Morgan acted as all-round registration assistant during Trude Oliver's leave from May to September, 1990.

The quality and quantity of cataloguing, research, organization, and conservation work accomplished by Barb, Bill, Evelyn, Claire, Leona, Randy, Carole and Donald are a very tangible statement of their hard work — work that was readily recognized and greatly appreciated by the registrar and the curator of collections.

OUTREACH

Some of the valuable workshops and symposia attended were: Grantsmanship, Museums and the GST, Making Connections (art galleries, museums and today's system of education), Charlottetown: Birthplace Explored, The Care of Ceramics and Glass, and the Confederation Centre's weekly lecture series on collecting that included an excellent presentation on P.E.I. hand-woven textiles by Mary Burnett. Mary also attended a Registrar's Special-Interest Group workshop, thanks to a P.E.I. Community Museums Association grant and her own funds, that was held in conjunction with the Canadian Museum Association's annual meeting in Edmonton. The P.E.I. Community Museums Association is playing a vital role in providing quality training and bursary assistance for all museum personnel in Prince Edward Island, including the two staff members in the Collections Department. Thanks to CMA's workshops providing relevant information on museum theory and practice, our own museum interactions, such as loan transactions and information requests, are vastly improved.

Mary Burnett continues to serve on the Publishing Committee, and Trude Oliver on the Collections Management Committee, Government House Committee, the Garden Committee of Government House, the Provincial Conservation Committee, and as designated representative to the Canadian Heritage Information Network client meetings.

We continue to owe much to those with whom we come in daily contact: donors, prospective donors and researchers represent a large portion of our regular written, telephone and face-to-face communications; contacts are made on a

regular basis with colleagues, Canadian Conservation Institute staff, the Canadian Heritage Information Network, and other sections of the federal Department of Communications, the Confederation Centre Art Gallery and Museum, the Public Archives and Records Office, the maintenance section of the provincial Department of Transportation and Public Works, and Canada Employment and immigration. The topics always revolve around collection needs or management, ie. artifact evaluation, conservation, documentation, loans, and — you guessed it — funding. A sincere thank you to all for the support year in and year out.

COLLECTIONS

Highlights of the 61 artifact transactions in 1990-91 included watercolours, silhouettes and silver owned by former Lieutenant Governor John Ready's family and donated by a descendant, Miss Dorothy Dutton of Quebec; a 1907 Souris Citizen's Band uniform worn by Roy MacLean and donated by Greg Gallant, who had received it from Mrs. Adele Townsend, Mr. MacLean's daughter; an early 20th-century postcard album compiled by Elsie MacLeod, containing numerous P.E.I. images new to the Provincial Collection, donated by Pauline Saunders; and a rare *ca.*-1815 strawwork jewel box covered with mosaic-like geometric patterns of straw, donated by Irma White.

Since April of 1990, there have been 45 inward and outward loan agreements, ranging from one artifact to 80. There are also 20 extended or ongoing loans to be accounted for each year. Seeking and finding, writing condition reports, cleaning, packing, arranging for transportation and insurance, and documenting each step are the routine and time-consuming, but vital, requirements of each transaction. The same steps are involved in movement of artifacts to and from museum sites and exhibitions.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

A sampling of other activities which kept us out of mischief included:

1) making application to the Cultural Property Export and Import Review Board for funds to assist in the repatriation of a ship's portrait of the *Kelso*, built in Souris, P.E.I.

2) implementing recommendations to meet Insurers' Advisory Organization standards for the interior of the storage building, with emphasis on the furnace room.

3) replacing the *ca.*-1970 buried oil tank with an above-ground model in a concrete containment.

4) preparing for and conducting Identification Day.

5) completing the 17-page Job Information Questionnaire required of all civil servants for the re-classification process, and filling information requests requiring anything from a few minutes' telephone conversation to several hours of research.

FOR THE RECORD

Balanced against the progress and activities of the year, the following needs still exist in areas relating to the collection, staffing and physical plant:

The Collection: acquisition funds, review of insurance needs, collection assessment and de-accessioning of material with no historic, documentary or exhibit value (such as duplicate newspapers and artifacts that are seriously deteriorated), lap-top computers for working with collections housed where electricity is not available, and a vehicle for transporting artifacts.

Staffing: Cataloguer/computer operator(s), conservator or conservation technicians, and staff to work on detailed inventory checks, collections photography and the revamping of collections-management and loan policies.

Physical Plant: expanded storage, cold storage for textiles, and isolation chamber, update on the security system, roof repair, top for the above-ground oil tank container.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the long-time supporters of the Provincial Collection, and to volunteers Sherri McBride, Bill MacDonald and Donald Moses.

Respectfully submitted,

Trude Oliver,
Curator of Collections

Exhibits and Public Programs

Emphasis in this department during the past year was definitely on the word "exhibits," as we mounted two large efforts in the space of eight months. The exhibit "A Thousand Young Men" was displayed at three different venues, opening in March of 1990 at the Confederation Centre Art Gallery and Museum. A condensed version of the exhibit then travelled to Montague's Garden of the Gulf Museum for the summer, and the full display was set up at the Eptek National Exhibition Centre for the month of November. The total number of visitors at all three locations was 5500.

Our major exhibit for the year was entitled "New Ireland: The Irish on Prince Edward Island." It was produced with the financial assistance of the Department of Tourism's "We're Akin to Ireland" Committee and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs. Due to funding delays, we were not able to start planning for the project until a scarce five months before the planned opening date. Thus, the exhibit required an extremely tight production schedule, even tighter teamwork and several hundred hours of overtime to bring it off successfully. Many thanks to the diligence of the production team. Special thanks to Donald Moses and

Randy Muttart (made available to us through a federal Job Development grant), and to Reg Porter, guest curator for the project. The display was installed, on time, at the Confederation Centre Art Gallery and Museum, and opened July 30. It ran from August through October and recorded an attendance of 10,700.

The major exhibit for next year is under way now. It is being produced with the financial assistance of the Department of Tourism's "Road to the Isle" Committee, and will explore the Scots on Prince Edward Island in a treatment similar to the Irish theme of 1990.

In addition to this welter of exhibit work, the department continued three popular programs. The "Artifact of the Month" program continues to make use of Beaconsfield's limited exhibit space by featuring artifacts and themes from the Provincial Collection. The past year also saw two Identification Days held, one on Montague and the other in Charlottetown. Although attendance at the Montague event was disappointing, the Charlottetown event, held at Province House on Heritage Day, was one of the best ever. Many thanks to all involved, especially the Garden of the Gulf Museum, Canadian Parks Service, and the Parks and People Association. The department also continues to assist the Institute of Island Studies with its annual Island Lecture Series. Part of both the eighth (Small Islands) and the ninth (The Island Fiddle) series fell into this fiscal year, the latter developing into an unqualified success.

Finally, the department also embarked on a detailed planning exercise and helped co-ordinate the Museum & Heritage Foundation's application for funding under the recently signed federal/provincial Co-operative Agreement on Culture. The planning aspect of this process saw the creation of an exhibition schedule that included ten detailed exhibit plans with costs, all relating to the mandate outlined in our Five Year Plan. Some of the exhibit themes have been incorporated into the applications for funding made on behalf of the sites, while others await the creation of other funding. Having the plans on hand, however, should help streamline the process of applying for outside sources of exhibit and program money.

Respectfully submitted,

Boyde Beck
Curator of Exhibits and Public Programs

Genealogy

Family history has been described as "the ancestor and root of all other forms of historical enquiry." Therefore, it should not be surprising that the Genealogy Division continued in 1990-91 to play an active role in helping to fulfill the broad mandate of the Museum Act of 1983. Through the division's services and programs, the staff helped collect, preserve, interpret and protect a vital part of our human heritage on Prince Edward Island.

STATISTICS

The popularity of genealogy is evident in our statistics, which climbed again this year. A record number of researchers, 2962, visited the Genealogy Room in 1990, compared with 2818 in 1989, 2412 in 1988, and 1211 in 1978 when we began recording them. By early in 1991, our backlog of correspondence was wiped out — and genealogical inquiries answered during 1990 rose 40%: 685 letters compared with 490 in 1989, 592 in 1988 and 332 in 1978.

While our immediate concern on a daily basis has continued to be with assisting those researchers who visit the Genealogy Room or phone in, the priority placed on correspondence in recent months has increased the efficiency of our overall research service and helped to generate more revenue. On the other hand, it has left less time for program activities and, as of January, my newspaper column has been put on hold indefinitely.

A new method of charging for genealogical research requested by mail was implemented in March. Researchers are now charged an hourly rate and asked to authorize the number of hours in advance. Research, therefore, is being undertaken only for those willing to pay for the service.

Admission fees to the Genealogy Room for non-members were raised in January from $3 to $4, and from $1 to $2 for student non-members.

Revenue generated in the division during 1990-91 (from all sources, excluding workshop grants and registration fees) was almost $9000.

PROGRAM

Outreach to the public through writing and educational program activities continued this year. In addition to contributing to several publications, speaking engagements were also undertaken, and included participation in seven major events held on the Island and in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Six introductory genealogy workshops for various groups, mostly students, were conducted in the Genealogy room using a hands-on approach to the resources. In addition, guidance and assistance were given to numerous community and church groups, family reunion planners, librarians, government personnel, and members of other organizations.

During Heritage Week, the Genealogy Division hosted a "Scottish Heritage Afternoon" at Beaconsfield attended by upwards of 100 people, arranging resource personnel,

reference materials, entertainment, displays and refreshments for the event.

The "New Ireland" exhibition, a major Museum undertaking in 1990, included a genealogical component that saw the genealogy staff become an active part of the planning team. Assisted by a number of volunteers, our contribution included the compilation of a list of surnames of Irish origin from census records and a list of Irish immigrants from gravestone inscriptions.

The highlight of our program for 1990-91, however, was the "Island to Island" Irish genealogy workshop held in Charlottetown September 21-23 as part of the "We're Akin to Ireland" tourism celebrations. With funding help from the Department of Tourism and Parks and St. Mary's University Chair of Irish Studies in Halifax, this division organized the event with the help of an advisory committee that included representatives of the P.E.I. Genealogical Society and the Benevolent Irish Society. The event attracted 90 enthusiastic amateur and professional researchers from the U.S. and Canada to hear eleven top-calibre speakers, including the chief herald of Ireland. Thanks to staff teamwork and the able assistance of volunteers, the workshop came off without a hitch. The success of the Irish workshop prompted planning to begin in January for a similar Scottish event to be held next September.

STUDENT PROJECTS

Funding from the provincial Department of Industry and the federal "Challenge 90" program enabled us to hire three students as research assistants during the summer. Jill MacMicken, Lori Quilty and Matthew Hatvany made the hectic summer months enjoyable through their professionalism, dedication and teamwork. We were also fortunate to have Barbara MacKay with us for 12 weeks in the fall thanks to the Canada Employment Centre and the Tourism Industry Association (TIAPEI).

THE COLLECTION

No new major indexing projects were undertaken in 1990-91 while we investigate the possibility of introducing computerized access to our present card-catalogue holdings and to any new information we may wish to index. A proposal for a Computer Feasibility Study has been submitted to the committee screening applications for funding under the federal/provincial Co-operative Agreement on Culture. Findings of the study would set the direction for indexing projects in the future. We are still awaiting word.

Assistant genealogist Charlotte Stewart has continued to manage the indexing project of vital statistic information gleaned from current Island newspapers, with volunteer and student assistance.

Updating of information collected from the Island's 302 known cemeteries over ten years ago continues with the help of volunteers and staff. The information is made available to researchers in the Genealogy Room and published by the P.E.I. Genealogical Society.

In addition to the many researchers who have donated books, microfilm or other genealogical reference materials to the Genealogy Room, the Genealogical Society has continued to be most supportive in adding to the collection in the Genealogy Division. Over $500 worth of reference books were purchased for the genealogy library, in addition to periodicals received on exchange from other societies. The society has also added substantially to our Scottish parish records on microfilm.

COMMITTEES

Committee work again took up time this year. Charlotte and I both served on the planning committee for the "New Ireland" exhibition and the Irish genealogy workshop. Charlotte continued to serve as secretary treasurer of the Archives Council of P.E.I. and also served on the nominating committee of the P.E.I. Genealogical Society. I continued as P.E.I. Museum & Heritage Foundation representative on the society's executive, as well as representing the Museum at the Genealogical Institute of the Maritimes meetings.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Due to budget reductions for the division in 1990-91 and a hectic work schedule, professional development was limited to a workshop on grantsmanship (sources for project funding) and a Land Records workshop, attended by both Charlotte and me. Charlotte attended a workshop on training summer museum staff, and I attended one on oral history.

NEEDS

In light of the current recession and fiscal constraints, this is not a good time to talk about needs, but to concentrate instead on maintaining the status quo. Nevertheless, there are real needs in this division, reflected no doubt in every one of my colleagues' reports on their own divisions or sites. These needs revolve around funding to support expanded staffing and programs, and must be addressed.

THANK YOU

To all those individuals, groups and organizations who have supported the Genealogy Division during the past year through funding, donations, volunteer time and/or in other co-operative ways, a special thank you. We look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Fraser,
Genealogical Co-ordinator

Curator of History

I should note at the outset that my year has been somewhat truncated. From mid-January until the end of the budget year, I have been on secondment as Secretary to the Confederation Birthplace Commission. That being confessed, I will proceed to "the year that was."

The past twelve months have been filled with shadow and light as we struggle to fulfill our objectives amid a deteriorating budgetary situation. For purposes of budgeting, the Curator of History position continues to be included within the publishing and publicity division, but in actuality, the duties range across departmental boundaries. This report will reflect that reality.

THE ISLAND MAGAZINE

This year will mark the 15th anniversary of *The Island Magazine*. From the admittedly biased perspective of editor, I feel the two issues of this magazine published in 1990-91 have been quality productions, exploring the human and natural heritage of Prince Edward Island in a manner that informs and entertains. And thanks to my colleague, Karen Kearney, they have been on schedule. Visually, Number 28 is, to my mind, the most attractive issue of my six-year tenure as editor. Each issue is born of many hands, and I can only recognize with sincere gratitude the extraordinary contributions of the volunteer authors and the volunteer Editorial Committee, along with the advice, assistance, and support of colleagues both within and without our organization. During my secondment, I have continued to edit the magazine on a freelance basis out of a combination of greed, egotism, and genuine concern.

In my last annual report, I crowed about the boom in circulation that followed our distribution arrangement with H. H. Marshall. This year, I must express concern. Boom has given way, not to bust, but to fizzle. After a 27% surge for Number 26, circulation for subsequent issues has returned to its former level, about 2,200 magazines (or 55% of the print run) in the first year after publication. The decline is a mystery, but there are several clues. First, it is likely that the new distribution system initially inflated sales, as many consumers were exposed to the Magazine for the first time; some were undoubtedly won over, but others did not share our interest in Island history and did not purchase subsequent issues. The severe recession and the introduction of GST are more tangible factors, both for magazine buyers and retailers. Magazine purchases, after all, represent discretionary spending. Meanwhile, many retailers may be taking fewer copies to sell since they must pay GST on all magazines they purchase for re-sale, but get no rebates for unsold copies they return to the wholesaler. Not only are consumers reportedly spending less on magazines, they also have greater choice in buying Prince Edward Island magazines. Though their content differs, *IslandSide* and the recently deceased *Edge* compete for the same Island readers, going head to head with each other on many newsstands. Some readers even confuse *IslandSide* and *The Island Magazine*. Finally, on top of recession, taxation, competition, and product confusion, we increased the cover price nearly 30% with Number 26 to offset production costs that had crept up gradually over the years.

The decline in circulation is not a disaster, despite all the space I've just devoted to explaining it, and I do not recommend abandoning our arrangement with H. H. Marshall at this time. Still, we must take note. *The Island Magazine* is a program, not a business, and it succeeds, but it must not become a heavy financial burden. Its first commitment is to excellence; its second is to cost efficiency. We are already doing our own rough layout in-house, although higher prices for typesetting and final layout have balanced the savings. For Number 29, we are lowering our print run from 4,000 to 3,000 copies. We will attempt to shorten the magazine to 40 pages. For the first time, we will advertise back issues in forthcoming issues. More significantly, we are considering a break with tradition by letting back issues go out of print. The continuing relevance of the history in our back issues and the ability to market complete sets can no longer compete with the fiscal and physical cost of so much inventory crammed into so small a space. In this case, philosophy may lose out to finances.

PUBLISHING

Straitened circumstances have curtailed the publishing program in some respects. Printing and re-printing the *Cummins Atlas* did not require historical or editorial assistance, but compiling the data for another project, a 1992 Island History Calendar, has been an absorbing task. Island history *is* interesting, and we hope the calendar's 300-plus entries — mini-stories, really — will show that it's also marketable. The calendar's illustrations will be drawn from back issues of *The Island Magazine*, allowing the Museum and Foundation to combine aesthetics with self-promotion.

EXHIBITS AND PROGRAMMING

In 1990, the Prince Edward Island Museum & Heritage Foundation staged its most ambitious exhibit ever, *New Ireland: The Irish on Prince Edward Island*. To borrow a sports clich, it was a total team effort, telescoped into a remarkably short time-frame. My part in it was primarily to provide the historical research and to write the text for the exhibit. As Wellington said of Waterloo, "It was a near run thing," but the exhibit opened on time and was a great success. Ulcers were narrowly avoided.

Another major exhibition, this one on the Island's Scottish heritage, is currently in the works, but my secondment in January has sharply curtailed any involvement in it, except in the conceptual stages. Luckily, my colleague, Boyde Beck, the Curator of Exhibits and Public Programming and a trained historian, has stepped into the breach. Similarly, he has been forced to shoulder alone the burden of the organization's involvement with the Island Lecture Series, which we co-sponsor each year with the Institute of Island Studies.

HISTORICAL RESOURCE/EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

There appears to be no limit to people's curiosity about the Island's past. Unfortunately, there are limits to the answers and the time that can be spent finding and giving them. Oral and written inquiries continue to pour in — even during my secondment. If I can, I answer them. There have been other contacts with the public: speaking engagements, walking tours, panel discussions, slide shows, school lectures. I don't think I've improved much as a public speaker, but Island audiences are very polite.

OTHER DUTIES

"Other duties" is a rather ominous, omnibus expression. It can mean anything from taking out the garbage to filling in as "acting" Executive Director. I have done both. It also means sitting on committees within or on behalf of the organization. The Publishing Committee and *The Island Magazine* Editorial Committee are in-house examples. Another, the Library Committee, is moribund and, considering the current state of our staff library, should be revived. In addition, I have represented the organization on the Board of the Institute of Island Studies (where I also chair the Publications Committee), the Department of Tourism's "Road to the Isle" Advisory Committee, and the Department of Community and Cultural Affair's Evaluation Committee for the Grants to Small Museums Program.

My secondment to the Confederation Birthplace Commission ends on the first of August. At that time, I look forward to coming back home to the Prince Edward Island Museum & Heritage Foundation.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward MacDonald,
Curator of History

Publications and Publicity

PUBLISHING

Because belt-tightening was the name of the game in 1990-91, publishing activities were sharply curtailed except for the re-printing the 1928 Cummins' *Atlas of Province of Prince Edward Island*. This proved to be an unexpected success story. A total of 1500 copies were printed, in three runs, and the demand has still not been satisfied. A fourth run is planned for early 1991-92, which should see us and the local book retailers through the tourist season. Although publishing is not a business of the Museum & Heritage Foundation, but rather a program to disseminate historical information, nevertheless profit has become the first consideration in these tough times. Happily, in the case of the Cummins atlas, the budget, the public and the pool of published historical information on Prince Edward Island were all well served. Unhappily, surplus funds do not remain in the department, but are used to make up the budget shortfalls in other areas.

Issues 27 and 28 of *The Island Magazine* were edited and prepared by Ed MacDonald, and produced in rough layout form once again by the two of us. Distribution through H.H. Marshall has fallen off somewhat, a reflection less on the method of distribution than on factors rather beyond our control (for a fuller analysis, see Ed MacDonald's annual report). In any case, bringing distribution back in-house is just not possible with the chronic understaffing situation and loss of the staff car to budget cuts.

Total book sales in 1990-91 were $71,027, an unaudited figure at this point that includes sales of the Museum's own publications, publications bought for resale, and sales of *The Island Magazine*. This represents a substantial increase (41%) over the audited figure from the previous year.

Ed MacDonald and I began work several months ago on an idea for generating interest in Island history as well as revenue. The 1992 Island History Calendar will go on sale in June replete with over 300 facts from the Island's past.

Four issues of the *Newsletter* were produced once again, keeping members informed of heritage activities undertaken by the Museum & Heritage Foundation and related bodies. Cover stories featured the opening of the militia exhibition "A Thousand Young Men," a roundup of the Heritage Award winners for 1990, the "Island to Island" Irish genealogy workshop, and Cummins' atlas.

The Publishing Committee was chaired by Robert Tuck, with Clinton Morrison (who has since resigned from the Board), Mary Burnett, Ed MacDonald, David Webber (*ex officio*) and myself as members. It continued to make recommendations to the Board on publishing priorities, including a recommendation that Irene Rogers' book, *Charlottetown: The Life in its Buildings*, be re-printed. However, finances are so tight that unless the cost of printing can be fully offset by pre-publication sales (as in the case of Cummins' atlas), the Board will not authorize the go-ahead.

The department was indeed fortunate to have Angela Herlihy and Joanne Darby working at Beaconsfield last summer, thanks to the Department of Industry's Jobs for Youth program. Angela has continued to provide part-time support to the publishing department, and to the accounting section, throughout the year. And Linda Lunardi has continued to flog *many* atlases and other publications while watching over the front desk.

PUBLICITY

With and even smaller advertising budget to work with than in 1989-90, publicity generated in 1990-91 was almost exclusively through press releases and photos picked up by the local media. However, the Department of Tourism was generous enough to include the full-page colour ad for our heritage sites once again in the 1991 *Visitors Guide* at no cost to the Museum.

Organizing, promoting and reporting on events held during the year made up a substantial part of the workload, with the Annual General Meeting and Awards Banquet, "New Ireland" Exhibition, Irish Genealogy Workshop, and Heritage Week serving as the major cornerstones of activity.

With the help of Boyde Beck, Ed MacDonald, Trude Oliver and Mary Burnett, the "Artifact of the Month" was turned out on a regular basis, and duly described in my column for the *Guardian* newspaper. Somewhat to my surprise, I have discovered that people actually read the column.

The quarterly Newsletter could also be considered a source of publicity, since the media receive a copy and have, on occasion, followed up on items.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

A new responsibility that devolved on the supervisor of publications and publicity in 1990-91 was fund-raising. This included preparing an analysis of the current membership fee structure and the cost of servicing the Museum's 545 life members annually. Following recommendations made to the Board by Harry Holman, chair of the fund-raising committee, it further involved preparation of materials to explain the new membership structure and perquisites to members, materials soliciting additional financial support from our life members, and materials thanking members for their contributions. The mailing took place in March and brought immediate response, some of it very generous and all of it appreciated. Part of this exercise will be repeated in June when the 1990-91 memberships will be due for renewal.

Another undertaking that did not fall neatly into the category of either publishing or publicity was the preparation of individual funding proposals for the federal /provincial Co-operative Agreement on Culture, which involved all site and department heads. Months later, we are still awaiting a decision regarding acceptance of some or all of the submissions.

As always, the year was made enjoyable by the generosity and support of my colleagues, whom I thank unreservedly.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Kearney,
Supervisor of Publications & Publicity

Government House Committee

The Government House Committee quickly developed an effective working relationship with the new incumbent, Lieutenant Governor Marion L. Reid. Her Honour has been most co-operative and proven herself dedicated to the aims and objectives of the committee.

EXTERIOR WORK

The studies initiated in the past year to obtain documentation for the exterior restoration project continue. To this end, the committee sought and received permission to review the papers of the late Irene Rogers at the Prince Edward Island Public Archives and Records Office. Volunteers have been conducting research at the archives and at the University of Prince Edward Island. Trude Oliver and other staff of the Museum & Heritage Foundation have compiled a large album of all known early images of Government House, and Catherine Hennessey has offered her research records. The total compilation will be made available for an architectural study and report which is to be prepared before actual work begins on exterior restoration.

INTERIOR WORK

It was the decision of the committee to seek the advice of Murray Oliver, a recognized design consultant from Toronto, for the intended renovation of the central east bedroom and for a long-range plan for the state rooms of Government House. It is hoped that the first phase, the work on the bedroom, will be completed by late summer of 1991, and a timetable established for the work on the remaining rooms. David Webber conducted a paint analysis on the state rooms to establish accurate historical detail, and at the March meeting made a fine presentation on paint colours used over the years.

GARDEN COMMITTEE

This committee, with R.G. Lea as chairperson and Edith Nicly and Freeman Newson as members, continues its dedicated work. Considerable time was spent in the wooded areas of the grounds where culling of dead trees and replanting took place. Extensive planting is planned for the spring of 1991 along the entrance driveway. During the spring of 1990, new varieties were added to the regular plantings of annuals in the flower beds. The rose garden survived the winter of 1990 almost intact, and no additions were made. However, a significant number of new rose varieties is planned for 1991. Dr. Lea reports that because the tours sponsored by the Rose Society were not well attended in 1990, a review is anticipated.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

in June 1990, a member of the Government House Committee travelled to Lennoxville, Quebec, to pick up a donation from Dorothy Dutton, a direct descendant of

Lieutenant Governor John Ready. The twelve watercolours, some silver and two silhouettes were donated to the Prince Edward Island Museum & Heritage Foundation.

An advertisement has been placed in *Country Life* magazine in Britain seeking artifacts and memorabilia of former residents of Prince Edward Island.

Book plates were designed and printed for use in the library at Government House.

Sufficient crystal of the out-of-stock pattern in use at Government House has now been acquired through advertisement to provide table settings for a moderate-size dinner party.

A silver tantalus and silver candelabra were sent to a conservator in Toronto for repair.

Revisions were made to the Government House brochure by Dr. Eliot.

The Canadian Conservation Committee has been sent a Request for Treatment proposal for the table desk purchased from Mellish Antiques.

Two pier mirrors thought to be part of the original inventory, sent some time ago to Ottawa for restoration, have been returned.

An independent committee was struck to oversee the decorating of Government House last Christmas, and a member of the Government House Committee was appointed to act as liaison. These volunteers spent many hours working on the project, with gratifying results.

The volunteers who each year devote hours to the preparation of lovely dried-flower arrangements for Government House — Trude Oliver, Edith Niely and Gladys MacKay — continue their valuable work.

Over the past year it has become necessary to increase the number of docents who conduct the numerous annual tours of Government House. A training program was developed by members of the committee and conducted for new docents with the assistance of veteran tour guide Anne Love.

In December, Her Honour kindly hosted a party in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the formation of the Government House Committee. All past and present members and their spouses were invited. Among those who attended to celebrate the occasion was Mrs. C.P. MacKenzie, a member of the original committee.

All in all, it has been a stimulating year, with much additional work required of all members in the planning of the proposed exterior and interior work. We look forward to the activity of the coming months and expect to be able to report on significant accomplishments in next year's review as this year's planning bears fruit.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Vass
Chair, Government House Committee